

COPY NO. 17

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
8 February 1955MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)  
SUBJECT: Offshore Island SituationGeneral

Peiping radio has prepared for possible military action against elements of the US 7th Fleet by citing overflights of the coastal islands, warning that the US "must be held responsible for all the consequences arising from the US direct participation in military activities" in the area. Statements of this kind would suggest an intention to try to knock down US aircraft overflying Communist-held territory. However, Peiping thus far has exercised great care.

Nationalist air reconnaissance of the Communist airfield at Foochow, on the Fukien coast, on 4 February revealed that the Communists have built antenna installations there. There is no information, as yet, as to the condition of the runway, which would have to be resurfaced to permit jet planes to operate there. When readied for flight operations, Foochow can be used by Communist planes for strikes on the Matsus, Quemoy, and Formosa.

Tachens

The evacuation of the Tachen Islands moved into its second day unopposed. US carrier patrol planes were fired on by Communist antiaircraft on islands north of the Tachens. No American planes were hit.

Document No.	12
No Change In Class.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Class. Changed To:	TS S C
Auth:	HR 78-2
Date:	17 July 78
By:	

PACOM Review  
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Matsus

Negative.

Quemoy

More than 48 military vehicles, some of which appeared to be towing artillery and two armored cars, were reported moving into the coastal area just north of Quemoy on 7 February. Some 24 other military trucks were observed moving toward this area from Amoy. The Communists may be repositioning or reinforcing artillery positions ringing the Quemoy.

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